

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-16 have been canceled. Claims 17-28 are submitted for consideration and are pending.

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35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,994,710 to Knee et al. (hereinafter, "Knee"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,148 to Nishikawa et al. (hereinafter, "Nishikawa") (*Office Action* p.2). Claims 1-16 are canceled herein and Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

Pending claims 17-28 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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